



ADVISORY BOARD

August 5, 2010
City Hall – 4th Floor, 1:30 P.M.
Engineering Conference Room
2 Civic Center Plaza, El Paso, Texas

MINUTES

Members Present: 5

Charles S. Wakeem, James H. Tolbert, Kevin T. von Finger, Lois Anne Balin, Bill Addington

Members Absent: 3

Luis M. Ruiz, Robert Ardovino, Richard L. Thomas

Member Vacancies: 1

Ex-Officio Members Present: Gonzalo Cedillos

Parks and Recreation Staff Present: Nanette Smejkal, Parks and Recreation Director, Richard Garcia, Park Planning & Development Manager, Maggie Binkley, Administrative Assistant

Others Present: Elaine Hengen, Assistant City Attorney, Rudy Valdez, EPWU, Raul Garcia, Development Services Planning

1. Meeting Called to Order - Chair Wakeem called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.
2. Agenda Item #2 Approval of Minutes: July 26, 2010
Chair Wakeem recommended the following **correction**: “*Others Present:Rudy Valdez, EPWU*”
Motion made by James Tolbert to approve the minutes with the correction. Second by Kevin von Finger. Motion carried (unanimous).
3. Agenda Item #3 Call to the Public (for items not on the agenda)
None
4. Agenda Item #4 Agenda Item for Notation: Appointment of Jim Tolbert to the Natural Open Space (NOS) Zoning Ordinance Subcommittee as a substitution for Richard Thomas.
Chair Wakeem reiterated the appointment for the record.
Chair Wakeem recommended moving Agenda Item #8 as the next item. Chair Wakeem asked for the vote. Motion carried (unanimous).
5. Agenda Item #8 Discussion and Action: Regarding the possibility of developing a Mountain to River Trail at arroyo 41A – EPWU, Rudy Valdez.

Rudy Valdez, EPWU, reviewed maps that identified the Mountain to River Trail, Tom Mays Park and area developments (Enchanted Hills and Desert Springs). Discussion ensued on proposed development changes to include; land studies, grading and zoning.

Mr. Valdez reported on the North Hills Development and the Franklin Mountain State Park property (purchased from the PSB).

Chair Wakeem commended private property owners and lease holders for their assistance in planning open space. Discussion followed on dedicated open space in the Deserts Springs and the widening of the bridge in Enchanted Hills.

Chair Wakeem recommended moving Agenda Item #9 as the next item. Motion by Kevin von Finger to move Agenda Item #9 as the next item. Seconded by James Tolbert. Motion carried (unanimous).

6. Agenda Item #9 Discussion, Information and Action: Recommendation to City Council regarding PSB policy on use of Stormwater Funds for Open Space pursuant to City Ordinance No. 016668 and update from the Stormwater Utility to the Open Space Advisory Board on the current Budget status of the “10% funds” for open space and greenway projects and project eligibility.

Elaine Hengen, Assistant City Attorney, read the actual language of City Ordinance No. 016668 and defined green projects (Open Space Master Plan and Parks Recreation Master Plans). Clarification was made as to acquisition using “10% funds” for open space and greenway projects.

Chair Wakeem stated that on August 25 he will present to the PSB, on behalf of Open Space Advisory Board, the Board’s vision and advocate for 10% funds apply to minimal improvements for a natural open spaces. (trails, kiosk, etc).

Kevin von Finger mentioned the prioritized list of projects previously submitted for funding through storm water included restorations. Discussion followed on park ponds, project restorations to its natural state, neighborhood improvements and land acquisitions.

Discussion held on revenue bonds and debt financing.

Chair Wakeem requested clarification on Open Meetings and on appointing nonmembers with expertise to the subcommittee. Elaine Hengen, City Attorney, advised the Board that they may appoint an ex-officio or nonvoting members.

No action taken.

7. Agenda Item #5 Discussion and Presentation: Relations between the City of El Paso and the Texas Water Development Board, as they relate to the purview of the Open Space Advisory Board, by TWDB Representative

Postponed

8. Agenda Item #6 Discussion and Action: Appointment of subcommittee to review and make recommendations on revisions to the grading ordinance contained in City Code Section 18.44.

Chair Wakeem appointed Bill Addington, Richard Thomas and Katrina Martich (environmental engineer)

9. Agenda Item #7 Discussion and Action: Review and comment on current subdivision applications. Raul Garcia, Development Services Planning, presented the Board with a PowerPoint reviewing subdivision applications; SUB10-00107 Pinnacle Replat B and SUB10-00108 Pinnacle Replat C. Discussion followed with the Board’s grading and re-vegetation concerns.

Open Space Advisory Board Meeting – Minutes August 5, 2010

Motion by Bill Addington that the Board recommend to the CPC and City Council that both applications be denied. Second by James Tolbert. Motion passed (4 ayes, 1 abstain)

Raul Garcia stated that he would include the Board's recommendation in his staff report and will be presented to the CPC in an advisory capacity.

10. Agenda Item #10 Discussion and Information: Presentation by Roberto Puga, Trustee, on his work and the status regarding the ASARCO Property.

Postponed

11. Agenda Item #11 Discussion: Items for Future Agendas

- PSB Policy on use of Stormwater Funds
- TWDB Representative
- Appointment of grading subcommittee
- ASARCO Property
- Clarification on the Open Meetings

12. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Maggie Binkley, Administrative Assistant